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Chemistry-Why Study It?

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Yuletide Wrappings . . .

By Nelle Goethe

Dress up the Christmas Gift

THE Christmas season is the gift-giving season! Each gift—even the most practical, can be enhanced if it is wrapped suitable and attractively. By suitably—it is inferred that the package is appropriate for the gift and for the one who is to receive it. For instance, children are delighted with gifts that are wrapped in figured paper (such as that paper which has figures of a Santa Claus on it), or with packages enclosed with bright gummed Christmas seals.

Children are especially fond of the package that imitates a chimney. It can be easily made by wrapping the box containing the gift in printed paper with a brick design. A piece of white paper may be pasted over the top—the edges being left long enough to extend down over the sides. When these edges are split into small strips they will give the appearance of icicles. A Santa Claus cut from a paper design and pasted onto the package at the lower corner will complete your "imitation chimney."

In wrapping packages with printed papers it is usually advisable to use only a ribbon and not attach any other decoration. The ribbon may harmonize or be a striking contrast in color.

Attractive packages may be made by the use of plain colored papers. They may be decorated by the use of ribbons, sprays of mistletoe or holly, natural pine, artificial pine cones or gold bells—these ornaments being tied onto the ribbon.

Gummed Christmas ribbon makes a pretty, securely wrapped package. Gummed Christmas seals are very popular and can be arranged in patterns. Christmas cards may likewise be attached to the ribbon.

Here are a few suggestions of different combinations which bring inspiration to your Christmas wrappings.

Use silver paper and tie the package with red ribbon. On the loops and ends of the ribbon paste silver stars at irregular intervals. Silver paper might also be tied with green ribbon, and a spray of red and green flowers added. A twig of real pine may be used if the package is to be given on the day it is wrapped—otherwise the needles may drop.

Why make the colors always the traditional red and green? Vary them. A treasure chest may be made by using a brown crepe paper to wrap a rectangular box and fastening it with gold gummed ribbon. Place gold seals over each corner. It makes a very unusual and attractive package.

Red glazed paper wrapped with silver and black ribbon or enclosed with silver gummed seals makes an attractive gift. Light brown crepe paper tied in deep red ribbon is also appropriate for a man.

In wrapping the package lay the box upside down so that the edges of the paper come at the back of the package, making it look neater. When using two ribbons of different colors, grasp them between thumb and forefinger and tie them at the same time into one bow. The favors and ornaments should be tied into the first knot so that it may be less bulky.

SOME one has said that paste and paper go together," so if you have a package that is larger than the sheet of paper—simply paste the paper neatly together along the edges and no one will be the wiser.

Give your friends a real treat this year. A gay, original yuletide package will bring joy to both the friend who gives and the friend who receives.

A chimney package for the children

Chemistry—Why Study It?

By Ila Woodburn

"WHO cares about chemistry, anyway?" What one of us has not groaned, grunted or wailed this little lament some time in our four-year sail thru the joys and sorrows of college life? And it all goes to show how woefully ignorant supposedly intelligent young people can be.

Chemistry and its enthusiastic supporters are today busy every minute showing the textile expert things she never knew about textiles, and the nutritionist facts she never dreamed about foods. We just can't afford not to care about chemistry.

For instance, those "green" beans which turned such a nasty brown when you cooked them this morning—can you guess? It wasn't the fault of the pan nor of the temperature, but of the soft water you unwittingly used. Hard water contains alkali, and makes green things more green. Soft water holds acid which turns them a dirty brown. And now chemistry plays a trick. While red beets flourish and grow additionally rosy in soft water because of the presence of acid, they languish and turn a sad blackish purple when cooked in hard or alkaline water.

Of course its an old story, but still a good one, that we simply couldn't have had our knowledge of the precious vitamins, of short-time methods of vegetable cookery, of our mineral needs and of all the other vastly important things which are for ever being popped up onto the home economics horizon, without the wide-awake chemist who is constantly digging, digging, in his effort to make life more happily livable.

Again, you are bothered by those so-called "rust spots" which appear occasionally on the family washing. They are probably due to insufficient rinsing, since the chemist has discovered that blueing often combines with soap particles left in the material to form compounds similar to rust.

Synthetic fabric—looks like silk, is often more durable than cotton and is reasonable in cost. The textile world is only its foster mother. . . its father was the chemist who is already working that he may present something even more valuable to the textile field.

The weighting in the silk dress, the sulphur in the wool blanket. "Permanent" dyes that fade and fade, harmless javelle water for bleaching, dangerous alkaline soaps for silk and wool, every one is tested and uncompromisingly labeled with its true worth by this all powerful chemistry which we ignorantly despised.